

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
RIVER OF GRASS, PHASE I PROJECT PLANNING ISSUES WORKSHOP  
February 3, 2009, SFWMD, Building B1, Auditorium  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 10:00 a.m.**

**MEETNG SUMMARY**

**Item 1: Welcome - Tom Olliff, Assistant, Executive Director, SFWMD**

- Welcome to the second in a series of “River of Grass” project planning workshops.
- Introduced Dick Pettigrew, who will be the meeting facilitator for the workshops.

**Item 2: Agenda Review – Dick Pettigrew, Workshop Facilitator**

- Proposed acquisition provides opportunity to consider and take advantage of changes that have occurred since the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was enacted in 2000.
- Need stakeholder support and commitment to work through the Phase I planning process. Intent is to recommend conceptual footprints by July. Governor’s Commission for a Sustainable South Florida included 49 appointed members that met over 5 years to recommend elements later incorporated into CERP.
- Reviewed day’s agenda.

**Item 3: Vision Statement and Scope of Planning Process – Ken Ammon, Dep. Executive Director, Everglades Restoration, SFWMD:**

- Reviewed Vision and Goals statements approved by FDEP and Executive Office of the Governor.
- Said SFWMD would take comments and suggestions, but SWMD does not anticipate major changes.

**ACTION: Suggestions for Change to Vision and Goals Statements by Workshop Participants were:**

- Re: Last goal statement: either define “viable” or delete it.
- Re: Goal 2: Need to define “cleaner” water.
- Re: 1<sup>st</sup> Bullet: add “and to redistribute more water to the south to restore the Southern Everglades.”
- Need to review language re: repair of Herbert Hoover Dike
- Vision: Add – “a managed and natural system of storage and treatment.” Re: Goal 2: after “increase availability of water storage . . .” add: “and treatment.”
- Include Everglades National Park in definition of “Southern Everglades”.
- Re: management of storage and treatment systems to benefit wildlife: SFWMD will review language to see how endangered and threatened species management should be addressed and make note of economic diversification benefits of natural habitat creation.

#### **Scope of Planning Process – Discussion/Suggestions:**

- Ken Ammon:
  - Scope of this process - recommend several potential footprints for the USSC land; and, optimize storage and treatment north of Lake Okeechobee.
  - Need range and general location of acreage needed north of the Everglades Protection Area.
  - Future planning phase would begin in fall, 2009; would involve higher level detail, especially modeling projects proposed for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA).
- Re: Scope statement: recommend changing “enhance economic conditions...” to “enhance economic value”.

#### **Item 4: Problems, Objectives and Constraints – Temperince Morgan, River of Grass Project Liaison, Everglades Restoration, SFWMD:**

- Explained Problems, Objectives and Constraints exercise/answered questions:
  - Each table to review spreadsheets for Lake Okeechobee Watershed, Northern Estuaries, EAA and Western Basins; and Everglades/Florida Bay.
  - Suggest changes, additions, deletions
  - Each table designated a scribe and spokesperson to report on results during afternoon session.
  - Results entered into computer; staff to eliminate duplication, put suggestions into categories and report back in afternoon session.
- Afternoon Session: each table reported on results of the morning exercise.
- SFWMD staff to go through results at Item 6.

#### **Item 5: Summary of Everglades Hydrologic Restoration Targets Workshop – January 14-16 – Ken Ammon, SFWMD:**

- Mr. Ammon presented a summary of the workshop and led a discussion/question and answer session.

#### **Item 6: Performance Measures/Indicators/Summary of Problems, Objectives and Constraints Exercise – Tommy Strowd, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration, SFWMD:**

- Mr. Strowd led a discussion about the results of the morning exercise and how it relates to the planning tasks. The updated spreadsheet charts are posted on [www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass](http://www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass). Comments of participants included:
  - Legacy phosphorous problem should apply to in Lake levels
  - Best Management Practices north of lake are voluntary. EAA BMPs are regulatory as per Florida Everglades Forever Act.
  - South of lake storage and treatment vs. planned storage and treatment north of lake; and impact of Florida Ranchland Environmental Services Program.
  - Refine definition of “muck”.
  - Recommend including public water supply in objectives.

- CERP objectives include “...restoring the Everglades while meeting the other water-related needs of the region. Need to include that here.
- Analysis of tradeoffs and benefits
- Fisheating Creek feasibility study – need to consider storage/treatment in that basin.
- Meeting Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the St. Lucie Estuary does not need to be an objective.
- Consider adding language to “eliminate excessive freshwater discharges.
- Look at reduction of pulse release duration and overall storage capacity. Need to increase water going south.
- Compile all Total Maximum Daily Load comments as constraints.
- Will post results of this session on website and will revisit at next workshop.

**Item 7: Next Meeting and Future Meeting Topics – Temperince Morgan:**

- Next meeting is February 19 at Palm Beach Community College, Dolly Hand Cultural Center, 1977 College Dr., Belle Glade.
- Topics include:
  - Discuss Problems, Objectives and Constraints Table
  - Presentations from Stakeholders about Approaches to Storage and Treatment
  - Modeling and Assessment Tools

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.**